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To: "Burmeister, Christopher, DOH" <Christopher.Burmeis@state.nm.us>

Subject: [EXT] public comment

After listening to the comments etc. for over 3 hours I finally figured out what the State of New Mexico should/must do to improve the lives of the individuals presently living within the 'boarding homes' in this State..... I wish to digress for a moment.....I lived in Virginia for over 30 years....raising a family, attending schools to attain my Masters degree in Social Work and working within the mental health system. I had a fantastic position in a program in Charlottesville, Virginia that was operated by the community mental health system; it was housing for individuals discharged from the State Hospital in Staunton, Virginia....a hospital that was larger than the hospital in Las Vegas but was 'sharp' and worked with patients while they were hospitalized and set up 'learning opportunities' prior to discharge. These opportunities helped folks learn skills of daily living: cooking, cleaning, budget, social skills.....etc....Prior to discharge patients were expected to pass and then there were attempts to place them in programs, housing etc....

The program in which I worked, Carlton Road, was set up to continue these teachings so that after several months each person would be eligible and knowledgeable to move into independent living....or congregant living if that person decided to live with other people.

The program was financed by the State of Virginia.....

IF New Mexico thinks that they can get boarding homes to finance, educate staff, follow up with the criteria you are legislating.....than I have a bridge to sell you!!!

Now, once the State of New Mexico opts to be the operator of residential homes and they are successful, than, perhaps, you can convince private operators to enter the field and provide the facilities and services which are so needed.....

There are many such programs throughout the country that you can review but by setting up the expectations that you are forcing (and I agree that many of these are necessary) you are not helping the residents of these facilities.....and.....again, the 'operators' of the boarding homes here in Las Vegas are under so much pressure now with this pandemic.....they need help: public health nurses should be visiting each home and offering substance of how to deal with this!!!! Social workers need to be visiting each home to talk to residents....that is what has to happen....I see boarding home residents walking around town not knowing what to do....where to go.....we need an outreach team each day to help.....

Sheila

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10